What Is Claimed Is:

1. An image processing apparatus having an optical area in which a plurality of elements are disposed in a matrix, comprising:

light reception means for receiving light introduced into said elements of said optical area and photoelectrically converting the light;

arithmetic operation means for arithmetically operating a signal obtained for each of said elements by the photoelectric conversion by said light reception means in accordance with a predetermined rule;

outputting means for outputting a result of the arithmetic operation of said arithmetic operation means for each of said elements; and

timing adjustment means for adjusting a timing at which the result of the arithmetic operation is to be outputted for each of said plurality of elements from said outputting means.

2. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said arithmetic operation means includes storage means for successively storing a plurality of signals at different timings obtained by the photoelectric conversion.

3. An image processing apparatus according to

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claim 2, wherein said arithmetic operation means executes comparison arithmetic operation for a combination of a plurality of ones of the signals stored in said storage means.

4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the comparison arithmetic operation includes an arithmetic operation for determining a maximum value or a minimum value of the signal.

5. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said outputting means outputs results of the arithmetic operation for each of the rows or the columns of said elements at a timing adjusted by said timing adjustment means.

6. An image processing method for an image processing apparatus which has an optical area in which a plurality of elements are disposed in a matrix, comprising:

a light reception step of receiving light introduced into said elements of said optical area and photoelectrically converting the light;

an arithmetic operation step of arithmetically operating a signal obtained for each of said elements by the photoelectric conversion of the processing in the light reception step in accordance with a predetermined

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rule;

an outputting step of outputting a result of the
arithmetic operation of the processing in the arithmetic
operation step for each of said elements; and

a timing adjustment step of adjusting a timing at
which the result of the arithmetic operation is to be
outputted for each of said plurality of elements by the
processing in the outputting step.

7. An image processing method according to claim 6,
wherein the arithmetic operation step includes a storage
step of successively storing a plurality of signals at
different timings obtained by the photoelectric
conversion.

8. An image processing method according to claim 7,
wherein the arithmetic operation step executes comparison
arithmetic operation for a combination of a plurality of
ones of the signals stored by the storage step.

9. An image processing method according to claim 8,
wherein the comparison arithmetic operation includes an
arithmetic operation for determining a maximum value or a
minimum value of the signal.

10. An image processing method according to claim
6, wherein the outputting means outputs results of the
arithmetic operation for each of the rows or the columns

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of said elements at a timing adjusted by the timing adjustment step.